

Magar language

Dhut magar (Nepali: मगर भाषा *Dhut magar bhasa*) is a language spoken mainly in Nepal, Southern Bhutan, Darjeeling, India, and Sikkim, India, by the Magar people. It is divided into two groups (Eastern and Western) and further dialect divisions give distinct tribal identity.^[3] In Nepal 788,530 people speak the language.

While the government of Nepal developed Magar language curricula, as provisioned by constitution, the teaching materials have never successfully reached Magar schools, where most school instruction is in Nepali language.^[4] It's not unusual for groups with their own language to feel that the "mother-tongue" is an essential part of identity. Dhut Magar language is sometimes lumped with Kham magar language spoken further west in Bheri, Dhaulagiri, Karnali and Rapti zones. Although the two languages share many common words, they have major structural differences and are not mutually intelligible.^[5]

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Magar	
Dhut, मगर भाषा	
Native to	Nepal
Ethnicity	1.9 million Magar people and others who claim to be Magar (2011 census) ^[1]
Native speakers	840,000 (2001–2006) ^[1]
Language family	Sino-Tibetan - Magaric Magar
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Either: mgp – Eastern Magar mrd – Western Magar
Glottolog	maga1261 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/maga1261) ^[2]

Geographical distribution

Western Magar

Western Magar (dialects: *Palpa* and *Syangja*) is spoken in the following districts of Nepal (*Ethnologue*).

- Lumbini Zone: Palpa District
- Gandaki Zone: Syangja District, and Tanahu District
- Small border area in Dawalagiri Zone: Parbat District
- Scattered throughout Bheri Zone: especially in Surkhet District, Jajarkot District, and Dailekh District
- Magars are also live in the district named parbat which is located in the western part of Nepal.

Eastern Magar

Eastern Magar (dialects: *Gorkha*, *Nawalparasi*, and *Tanahu*) is spoken in the following districts of Nepal (*Ethnologue*).

- *Zone 1: central mountains of Nepal east of the Bagmati River*
 - Gandaki Zone: Tanahu District and southern Gorkha District
 - Lumbini Zone: Palpa District and Nawalparasi District
 - Small border area in Bagmati Zone: Dhading District
- *Zone 2: eastern Nepal*
 - Sindhuli District, Janakpur Zone
 - Okhaldhunga District, Sagarmatha Zone
 - Scattered communities in central Kosi Zone and southern Mechi Zone

Phonology

Consonants

		<u>Labial</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Stop</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p	t̪*	t		k	[ʔ]
	<u>aspirated</u>	pʰ	t̪ʰ*	tʰ		kʰ	
	<u>voiced</u>	b	d̪*	d		g	
	<u>murmured</u>	bʱ	d̪ʱ*	dʱ		gʱ	
<u>Affricate</u>	<u>voiceless</u>			ts			
	<u>aspirated</u>			tsʰ			
	<u>voiced</u>			dz			
	<u>murmured</u>			dzʱ			
<u>Fricative</u>	<u>voiceless</u>			s			h
	<u>voiced</u>						ɦ
<u>Nasal</u>	<u>voiced</u>	m		n		ŋ	
	<u>murmured</u>	mʱ		nʱ		ŋʱ	
<u>Lateral</u>	<u>voiced</u>			l			
	<u>murmured</u>			lʱ			
<u>Approximant</u>	<u>voiced</u>	w		ɹ	j		
	<u>murmured</u>	wʱ		ɹʱ	jʱ		

*-only occur in the Tanahu dialect.

[ʔ] is only a marginal phoneme.^[6]

Phoneme	Allophones
/p/	[p̚]
/p ^h /	[p̪]
/t/	[t̪ t̚ t̚]
/t ^h /	[t̪]
/d/	[d̪ d̚ ɾ]
/k/	[k̪ k̚]
/k ^h /	[x]
/g/	[g̪]
/ts/	[t̪ʃ]
/ts ^h /	[t̪ʃ ^h]
/dz/	[d̪ʒ]
/dz ^h /	[d̪ʒ ^h]
/s/	[ʃ]
/h/	[h̪]
/n/	[n̪]
/ŋ/	[ŋ̪]

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
<u>Close</u>	i		u
<u>Mid</u>	e		o
			ʌ
<u>Open</u>		a	

<u>Diphthongs</u>
/ia/
/iu/
/ei/
/eu/
/aɪ/
/au/
/oi/

Phoneme	Allophones
/i/	[i ɪ i̯ iː ɪ̯]
/e/	[e ɛ ẽ eː ɛː]
/a/	[a æ ǣ aː ǣː]
/u/	[u ʊ u̯ uː ʊ̯]
/ʌ/	[ʌ ə ẽ ʌ̃ ʌ̃]
/o/	[o ɔ õ oː ɔː]

References

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Further reading

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External links

- detailed language map, western Nepal. Eastern Magar is language #33; Western Magar is #113. (http://www.ethnologue.com/show_map.asp?name=NP&seq=30)
- ELAR archive of Magar language documentation materials (<http://elar.soas.ac.uk/deposit/0213>)

- [The Magar language - Linguistics research - Folktales in Magar \(Western\) - Nepal \(http://linguistgeek.wixsite.com/themagarlanguage\)](http://linguistgeek.wixsite.com/themagarlanguage)

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